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SOURCE Wen-hui Pao.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GIVES PRIORITY TO TAX COLLECTION;
PEOPLE'S BANK OPENS BRANCHES

BEGINS COLLECTION OF AGRICULTURAL TAX -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 10 Sep 50

Peiping, 8 September (Hsin-hua) -- The following directive governing the collection of the agricultural tax in newly liberated areas was passed on 8 September 1950 by the 49th session of the Government Administration Council of the Central People's government:

1. Now that the autumn harvest has begun, the newly liberated areas shall start collection of the agricultural tax. This is an important matter because of its relation to a balanced national budget and to broadening popular responsibility. In this regard, the Government Administration Council has already promulgated "Provisional Regulations Governing the Agricultural Tax in Newly Liberated Areas," which has served generally to lessen the tax burden and to afford more fitting treatment to landlords. All levels of government, particularly provincial and municipal, must study these regulations carefully, master their contents, and prepare appropriate detailed rules for enforcement on the basis of actual provincial or municipal conditions.

2. All levels of government in newly liberated areas shall accept tax collection as their present primary responsibility and shall assume direct leadership in completing the task. Under no circumstances may this important function simply be delegated to personnel handling financial or food-stuff matters. All provincial, municipal, special district, and hsien government must adopt proper measures, such as public meetings and short-term training classes, to instruct tax collectors and responsible persons in lower units of government in the content of the provisional tax regulations and detailed enforcement measures. When possible, experienced cadres should also be sent to establish model tax-collection procedures which may be adopted and practiced on a wide scale by others to ensure a minimum of deviation. Hsien, ch'u, and village governments shall mobilize active elements in popular organizations and explain the provisions of the regulations to them so that they may publicize and explain the regulations on a wide scale.

- 1 -

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3. Village governments shall organize Agricultural Tax Investigation and Discussion Committees to include representatives of all social classes. The duties of such committees shall be to investigate the amount of land, production, number of persons, and tenancy relationships of tax-paying households. If violations are discovered, the committees are empowered, based on the stipulations of the provisional regulations, to compute and discuss the amount each household is to pay in tax, resolve inconsistencies, and ensure equitable payment of taxes.

4. The various levels of government and all tax-collection personnel must adhere strictly to government policies and conduct their activities in accordance with the temporary regulations. They may not, on their own initiative, raise or lower land or production standards, alter tax rates, increase tax liabilities, or exaggerate difficulties to lessen the amount to be collected. In addition to sending experienced cadres to the villages to aid in collection operations, investigate collection results, and rectify deviations, each government shall also utilize telephones and other means of communication to strengthen leadership and to effect close liaison with other levels of government. Each provincial, municipal, and regional district government shall also report general results to the Central government.

PEOPLE'S BANK EXTENDS BRANCHES --- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 2 Sep 50

Peiping, 1 September (Hsin-hua) -- Domestic remittances in China are now possible throughout the country as a result of the widespread establishment of branches of the People's Bank of China.

According to recent data, offices of the People's Bank are located in 86.5 percent of all hsien and municipalities in China, excluding the Northeast. The establishment of branch offices is complete in North China, with the exception of Suiyuan, and almost complete in East China and Central and South China, with Northwest and Southwest China trailing slightly because of more recent liberation.

Remittance within provinces can be handled satisfactorily throughout the country and over 1,100 remittance districts have been established which offer interprovince remittance service. North China has 253 such districts; East China, 407; Central and South China, 435; the Northwest, 47; and the Southwest, 46. These districts comprise altogether 56.2 percent of the country's hsien and municipalities. Remittance centers are Peiping, Tientsin, Shanghai, Hankow, Canton, Sian, and Chungking. Charges for sending remittances have also been greatly reduced, to the point that between certain cities there is no fee whatsoever.

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- 2 -

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